

OTTERY ST. MARY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

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Dr. R. R. Traill, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OTTERY ST. MARY.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ottery Saint Mary Urban District Council.

I beg to present to you a statement of the Public Health of your
District for the year 1955.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	...	38.
Still Births	...	0.
Boys	...	18.
Girls	...	20.

There were no illegitimate births.

Deaths.

In our own district (including transferable to other districts 12)	...	74.
Transferable from other districts	17.	

Males	...	38.
Females	..	36.

Of these deaths:-

- 2 had reached the age of 90 years and upward.
- 13 had reached the age of 80 years and upward.
- 29 had reached the age of 70 years and upward.
- 11 had reached the age of 65 years and upward.

One child died at the age of 1 day, and one young lady died at the age of
23 years (death being due to an accident).

There were eleven deaths from Cancer; none from Tuberculosis; one accidental
death; and no case of suicide.

The average age of adult death was about 71 years.

Hospital.

The following details have been given by the Ottery Saint Mary
District Cottage Hospital, viz:-

Admissions	...	232.
Discharges	...	209.
Out Patients	...	500.
Out Patients Attendance	...	2,190.
Operations	...	135.
Deaths	...	15.

Physiotherapy Department. During the year 215 patients attended,
and 3,664 treatments were given.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Infant Welfare Centre is open every Thursday except during
holiday periods. During this year it was open 24 times.

On the Register there were 99 children. The attendances were
as follows, viz:-

Infants (under 1 year)	...	277.
Toddlers	...	191.

Prevalence and Treatment of Infectious Diseases.

I received the following notifications of Infectious Diseases
during the year, viz:-

Measles	148.
Tuberculosis	5.
Polio-Myelitis (N.P.)	6.
Scarlet Fever	0.
Whooping Cough	57.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0.
Dysentery	0.
Erysipelas	1.
Paratyphoid "B"	0.

I have received no records of Venereal Diseases. The nearest Centre for treatment is at Exeter, and presumably, any cases that occur in this district go to Exeter direct for treatment, and do not come under my notice.

National Health Service Act 1946.

The local Medical Practitioners continue to work well with the District Nurses in the area, and jointly are responsible for the Treatment and welfare of Expectant and Nursing Mothers. Difficult cases are still transferred to the Specialist services at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, and in emergencies the Specialists continue to come to the district to visit and give their help. Young children up to 5 years of age continue to have the services of the Infant Welfare Centre, and the health visitor visits them when necessary. Older children attending school are catered for by the School Medical Services.

National Assistance Act 1948.

Section 47. No action has been taken under this section during the year.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

There have been no outbreaks during the year.

Water Supply.

More tangible results were apparent from the continued efforts of the East Devon Water Board to improve the main water supply to the town area and to the provision of a main piped water supply to the villages of Wiggaton and Tipton St. John. New distribution services were laid in the town area and short lengths of mains were laid to provide improved supplies to the higher parts of the town, particularly to the Housing Estates in Winters Lane and Longdogs Lane.

During the year main laying from Ottery St. Mary to Tipton St. John through Wiggaton has been carried out, and it was found possible to connect up certain premises to main water where the supply of water was imperative. It will be necessary, however, for the proposed new intermediate level Reservoir to be constructed and brought into service before a really satisfactory supply can be provided along the whole length of new mains. At the moment the supply to the outlying areas is being maintained at the expense of the supply to the built up areas resulting in loss in pressure to the properties situate in the higher parts of the town.

Further short lengths of new pipes were laid to replace corroded mains in the West Hill area by the private Water Supply Company belonging to the Escot Estate - an improvement in the supply to the dwelling houses concerned has been

reported.

Results of Bacteriological Examinations:-

East Devon Water Board Main Piped Supply:-

9 Samples Class I - 1 Sample Class II - 3 Samples Class III
1 Sample Unsatisfactory.

Private Wells:-

11 Samples Satisfactory - 16 Samples Unsatisfactory.

Regarding the unsatisfactory samples taken from the main piped supply of the East Devon Water Board, these were no doubt due to the extensive constructional works being carried out at the time. Remedial measures were immediately taken by the Water Board and the supply was improved accordingly.

The unsatisfactory reports on the samples of water taken from the private wells were all followed up by repeat samples and in each case, apart from one instance, the quality of the water was reported as being satisfactory after the necessary works of improvement to the wells had been carried out by the respective owners.

Sewerage.

The Council's Consulting Engineers, completed in September the detailed drawings, specification and Bills of Quantities for the reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works for the town area. Tenders were submitted and subsequently forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval. It is anticipated that the several works will be started during the early part of 1956. These Sewage Disposal Works have long been overdue, but there is no doubt that when the works are completed the position regarding the unsatisfactory sewage effluent should be entirely eliminated.

Following representations from the Devon County Council the Consulting Engineers were instructed to submit a detailed scheme for the laying of a sewer across the River Otter to accommodate the soil and domestic sewage from the King's Grammar School and adjacent County Council dwelling houses, situate to the west of the town. The preparation of the necessary detailed scheme is well advanced, and it is hoped that the work will be put in hand whilst the reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works is in progress. The existing arrangements for the sewage disposal at the School and adjoining County Council properties are quite inadequate and require urgent improvement.

The Council also instructed their Consulting Engineers to carry out a preliminary survey of the outlying or rural parts of the district, and accordingly in September of this year a report was received on the possibilities of providing sewerage schemes for the villages of Wiggaton,

Alfington, Tipton St. John and the residential area of West Hill. Following consideration of these reports it was decided to give priority to the proposed sewerage scheme for the village of Tipton St. John, bearing in mind the fact that main water would be available to most of the properties concerned during the year 1956.

The Consulting Engineers were accordingly given instructions to prepare the scheme in detail.

Refuse Disposal.

The town area has a weekly collection of household refuse, and the refuse from the country or rural area is collected twice in each calendar month. This service was satisfactorily maintained during the year.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government ordered an Inquiry to be held on the 17th May 1955 to receive representations on the proposed acquisition by the Council of land (disused clay pits) adjacent to the Brickworks, Chineway, for use as a refuse disposal site. The Minister gave his approval to the application, subject to certain conditions, and the land has now been acquired and tipping of refuse on the site has already commenced.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops. Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Inspections.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Notices.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority.	28	80	1
Factories not included in above which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	13	40	1
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority Building Sites &c.	<u>14</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>55</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>4</u>

Defects found and remedied:-

Want of Cleanliness	3
Unsuitable or Defective Sanitary Conveniences	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>6</u>

Housing.

Number of New Dwellings erected:-

By Local Authority	NIL.
By Other Bodies or	
Persons	<u>7.</u>
Total	<u>7.</u>

Food and Drugs Act 1938.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned
in whole or in part.

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>
Number killed	247	18	71	761	759	-
Number inspected	231	18	65	704	717	-

All diseases except Tuberculosis
and Cysticerchi.

Whole carcasses condemned.

1

Carcasses of which some part or
organ was condemned.

47

4

1

59

14

Percentage of the number
inspected affected with disease
other than tuberculosis and
cysticerchi.

20.34%

22.22%

1.54%

8.52%

1.95%

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned.

-

-

-

-

-

Carcasses of which some part of
organ was condemned.

2

27

Percentage of the number
inspected affected with
tuberculosis.

0.86%

3.76%

Cysticercosis

N I L.

Condemnations:-

Beef (including Offal)	555 lbs. weight.
Veal "	4
Mutton & Lamb "	281
Pork "	454
Tinned Meats	55
Miscellaneous (tinned fruits &c.)	149
Total weight	<u>1,498</u> lbs.

Slaughterhouses.

There are three licensed slaughterhouses operating in the district and in each case the animals slaughtered are mainly for sale in the respective proprietors' own butchering business - only a little wholesale trade is carried on from the premises concerned.

A 100% inspection of animals slaughtered for human consumption is maintained except when the Sanitary Inspector is away on Annual Leave.

Periodic inspections are made of the Butchers' shops, bakehouses and other food preparing premises situate in the district and the general standard of cleanliness and personal hygiene is fairly good.

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

It was found necessary during the year to serve notice on two Milk Producers in the district, restricting the sale of raw milk from the two

dairy farms concerned. It was suspected that the milk was infected with Tuberculosis. Following remedial action by Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the notices were subsequently withdrawn.

I am, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(signed) R. R. TRAILL.

Medical Officer of Health.

